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10-23
(May 1929)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO.

MONTHLY REPORT

for

DECEMBER

1940

IMPORTANT

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
*Director.*

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 6—7410

January 6, 19[illegible]

MEMORANDUM for the Director:

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of December, 19[illegible]:

000 - General

010 - December was noted for the large variation in weather conditions. Beginning on December 12, there was a "cold snap" during which the temperature at Mammoth went below zero every night for five consecutive nights. Temperatures went as low as 39 degrees below zero at West Yellowstone for the same period. In contrast to this cold weather, it was possible to play golf on December 21 and 22 at the golf course near Gardiner. There was very little precipitation during the month.

On December 17 it was necessary to send the park snowplows to Lake to bring out the Yellowstone Park Company's Lake Lodge Winterkeeper, who was suddenly taken ill. The trip was made with little difficulty and the road remained passable until December 27, although no travel was permitted over it except official trips.

020 - General Weather Conditions

December, 19[illegible], averaged 5.0° warmer than normal, but this was less than the year ago record that was the mildest on record. The last eight Decembers have all been above the long period average December temperature. Precipitation this December was considerably below normal; snowfall was 6.6 inches, compared to the normal 17.3 inches of snowfall. 4.9 inches of snow fell in one 24 hours on the 26 and 27th of December. There was less snow on the ground at Mammoth at Christmas this month than for any Christmas since 1913, only a trace and a few scattered drifts appearing.

The following snow depths were recorded at the close of the month:

| | 1939 | 1938 | 1940 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Snake River Station | 41" | 14" | 41" | |
| Cascade Creek | 50" | 20" | 64" | |
| Heckler River Station | 37" | 20" | 44" | |
| Buffalo Lake | 54" | 30" | 50" | (Dec. 17) |
| West Yellowstone | 10" | 0" | 24" | |
| Madison Junction | 12" | 10" | 20" | |
| Sportsmen Lake | 36" | - | 15" | (Dec. 16) |
| Tower Falls Station | 7" | [illegible] | 9" | |
| Lewis River Divide | 64" | 25" | - | |
| Mareboll Creek | 38" | 24" | - | |
| Boundary Creek | 57" | 20" | 50" | (Dec. 16) |

| | 1938 | 1939 | 1940 |
|---|---|---|---|
| South Riverside | 55" | 33" | 30" |
| Gallatin | 14" | 8" | 17" |
| Old Faithful | 24" | 11" | 30" |
| Slough Creek | 13" | 11" | 10" |
| Mammoth | 1.8" | 6.1" | 3" |

100 - Administration

110 - Superintendent's Special Activities

Mr. Rogers left the park by automobile on November 26 for a trip to Denver and the Regional Office at Omaha, Nebraska, and returned to the park December 4. On December 11 he attended a community gathering at Gardiner, Montana, at which meeting Kodaslides were shown by Park Ranger Frank Kowski. Mr. Rogers left for Denver on December 17 on annual leave and expects to spend the balance of the month and part of January in Denver.

Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe received a two-month detail to the Washington Office to assist the Park Operators Division and left the park December 23.

120 - Park Inspections

George R. Morgan, Assistant Equipment Engineer, Omaha, [illegible], in North December 9.

F. H. Bessolevric and C. H. Pollock, Postal Inspectors, in North December 9.

150 - Maps, Plans and Surveys

Drawings were started on the utility plans of the lake cabin area. The new cabin area for Mammoth was staked for grading, and the new employee's cottage staked. Data was compiled for revision to the 1941 Master Plan.

160 - General Publicity

Several press releases with regard to road conditions and events were sent out during the month.

Considerable work was done on the preparation of studies for information booklets on the Big Hole Battlefield National Monument and the Custer Battlefield National Cemetery. These studies will be submitted early next January.

200 - Maintenance, New Construction and Improvement

210 - Maintenance

Several snowplow trips were made to Cooke at the Northeast Entrance.

Numerous road slides were removed in the Gardiner River Canyon and sanding of the Yellowstone River and North Entrance roads attended to.

230 - Special Improvement Activities

CCC - Camp NP-1, Mammoth, and NP-7, Tower Creek, were the only two camps in Yellowstone Park during December. At the beginning of the month NP-1 had a company strength of 199 men and NP-7 had 171. On December 14, 67 men from NP-1 and 53 men from NP-7 were sent home as the terms of their enrollments had expired.

Two jobs were reported completed during the month. Job 124, which covered the obliteration of the old water supply reservoir near the old Mammoth Lodge, and Job 142, Yellowpine Cottages, were finished. Eight new cottages were constructed under this job, 2 of them 5-room buildings and 6 of the 3-room buildings. Although this job was set up for 20 cottages, it was decided to extend the job and set up a new job for each additional building constructed.

On December 16, a working quarantine was placed on both camps when one case of mumps was reported. During the remainder of the month 15 more cases appeared.

300 - Activities of Other Agencies in the Park

310 - Park Operators

The 1941 proposed rates for Haynes, Inc., and L. S. V. Kinnear were submitted to the Director during December.

320 - Cooperating Governmental Agencies

Public Roads Administration: Peter Kiewit Sons Company completed the last bridge on the East approach road and closed down for the season.

The Public Roads Administration dug five test pits for foundation investigation at the Yellowstone River on the Northwest Entrance road.

400 - Interpretation

421 - Progress of Exhibit Plans and Projects

Work is being done on plans for the renovation and revision of case exhibits in the Mammoth Museum, with special attention to the Fungi Case in the Biology Room and the Early History Cases in the History and Ethnology Room.

The preparation of a prospectus on the proposed new headquarters museum was completed during December and submitted on December 27 for review and discussion to the Region IV and Washington offices.

430 - Research and Observation

Assistant Park Naturalist Condon has made some progress on a report

on the steps of the Transpeos near Mammoth and had the opportunity to observe three pairs of this fine species on December 23rd and at that time counted only 32 birds.

Of pronounced interest is the fact that since January 1, the hot spring activity in the Blue Spring area on the Terrace Terrace has shifted from the land between the group of Minor Terraces and at present there is a large volume of water flowing from every crack of the Jupiter Terrace. This is the first time water has flowed in this area for several years.

430 - Ecology

Buffalo - During the month buffalo remained in typical form, the higher elevations in the Lower Gardiner River valley. Only 100 to 200 animals were observed in the winter feed ground slope areas, as well as along the lower valley where the buffalo normally congregate in winter. Between 600 and 700 animals are on the winter range at the close of the month. Plans are being made to corral 300 or 400 buffalo at the ranger station the middle of January for reduction of the Lower Valley herd. The animals will be driven into the corrals, if possible, with the use of the Interval of the regular roundup by means of horse riders.

Elk - Heavy concentration of elk occurred all along the northern winter range and at the close of the month the down-country migration had reached beyond Wellrounding Creek into the eastern section of the Cottonwood Creek area. Some 4,000 animals are now in this vicinity, from which the normal route of further migration leads into good hunting territory in Montana. Approximately 300 elk are now in the Corwin area. The several snowstorms which occurred during December tended to further concentrate the elk in the park but these storms were not severe enough to force migration beyond the park boundaries. Hunting conditions continued unfavorable in the Gardiner-Jardine portions and a total of only 84 animals had been taken by hunters at the close of the month, as compared with a total of 91 for the same period in 1939.

Trapping Operations - In the early part of the month the area near the close of the period, intensive effort was made to trap elk for live shipments at the Blacktail Deer Creek trap. There were no elk in the vicinity of any of the other three traps. At the Blacktail area snow conditions were more severe than at the lower altitudes and 600 to 700 elk foraged in this vicinity throughout the month. Due to abundance of available forage, however, the animals showed no inclination to seek the hay in the trapping corral and all efforts toward capture of the animals were unsuccessful. Permits have been received for about 70 live animals and further efforts will be continued in January to capture elk for these shipments.

500 - Use of Park Facilities by the Public

510 - Increase or Decrease in Travel

A marked decrease in travel as compared with last year was recorded. 1939 was abnormally wet and little snow fell until the end of the month so that travel was possible over many roads normally closed by snow in December.

December, 1940
Travel by Gates.

| ENTRANCE | 1st Entry | | Re-entry | | Motorcycle | | Other Trans. | | TOTAL | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cars | Pass. | Cars | Pass. | No. | Pass. | No. | People | Vehicles | Pass. |
| North | 32 | 276 | 199 | 330 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 233 | 610 |
| West | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| South | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Northeast | 0 | 0 | 107 | 264 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 107 | 264 |
| East | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 32 | 276 | 306 | 594 | | | | | 340 | 874 |

600 - Protection

610 - Ranger Service

The open hunting season on elk in the Gardiner-Jardine-Bear Creek areas for the entire month and in the Yellow River area for the first ten days of the month required regular boundary patrols. Elk patrols were also made over other sections for promotion purposes, to take snow depths and to observe wildlife conditions.

Special headquarters work consisted of the preparation of a truck drivers' examination for CCC enrollees covering National Park Service Rules and Regulations, safety, first aid, and accident procedure, preparation of a mileage and truck travel time table for fire suppression use, revision of the Park Ranger's Administrative Manual, Report Manual and Entrance Station Manual and the compilation of data in protection department records.

900 - Miscellaneous

The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union was held December 2. Colored pictures were shown at this meeting by Ross Heller and Park Ranger Frank Kowski.

Merritt M. Grant, Clerk-Stenographer assigned to the Park Engineer's Office, resigned to take a position with the State Department, Foreign Service, effective December 16, 1940.

A surprise party was given in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Hurt and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gillum at the museum on the evening of December 17. Many local people attended and a good time was had by all.

On December 18 a son was born to Lieutenant and Mrs. Earl F.

Hochstrasser at the Park Hospital, Livingston, Montana.

A Christmas Program was held the evening of December 21 in the park chapel. The school children of Gardiner participated in this program and Santa Claus was present to receive their letters and gifts.

On December 21 Postmaster Joe D. Wirth advised the Superintendent's Office of his appointment as postmaster, which was effective September 15, 1940. Mr. Wirth had previously failed to officially notify this office of his appointment.

An all-day outing was enjoyed on December 23 by Executive Order.

Snow-shoeing in shadow land - Wall [illegible] National [illegible]

Sunrise on Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces - Yellowstone National Park

10-157
(Dec. 1933)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# TRAVEL REPORT

Yellowstone National Park for the month of [illegible]

| | This Month | This Travel Year To Date | This Month Last Year | Last Travel Year To Date | Increase for Travel Year | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Number | Percent |
| PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION: | | | | | | |
| Cars first entry, | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| rs reentry, | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Motorcycles, | | | | | | |
| Total motor vehicles, | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Persons entering via motor vehicles, | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Persons entering via other private transportation, | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Total persons entering via private transportation, | | | | | | |
| OTHER TRANSPORTATION: | | | | | | |
| Persons entering via stages, | | | | | | |
| Persons entering via trains, | | | | | | |
| Persons entering otherwise, | | | | | | |
| Total other transportation, | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| GRAND TOTAL ALL VISITORS, | | | | | | |

| | This Year | Last Year | Increase | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Number | Percent |
| Automobiles in public camps during month, | | | | |
| Campers in public camps during month, | | | | |

[illegible]

4644

0-15)
1953)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# TRAVEL REPORT

Museum Date for the month of _____

| Item | This Month | This Year to Date | Last Year to Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

VATE TRANSPORTATION

s first entry, . . . . . .

s reentry, . . . . . .

otorcycles. . . . . .

otal motor vehicles, . . . . . .

sons entering by motor
icles, . . . . . .

sons entering via other
vate transportation, . . . . . .

otal persons entering via
rivate transportation . . . . . .

ER TRANSPORTATION

sons entering via stages, . . . . . .

sons entering via trains. . . . . .

sons entering otherwise . . . . . .

otal other transportation . . . . . .

ND TOTAL ALL VISITORS, . . . . . .

omobiles in private use during month
pers in public use during month . . . . . .

m No. 1030—Met'l.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WEATHER BUREAU

# MONTHLY METEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY

ATION YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO. MONTH DECEMBER, 1940

| TE | TEMPERATURE, °F. Maximum | Minimum | Mean | Normal mean | RELATIVE HUMIDITY 11:30am A. M. | Local noon | P. M. | PRECIPITATION Total (inches) | Snowfall (inches), 6 p. m. to 6 p. m.* (unmelted) | WIND Prevailing direction | Highest velocity | Direction | WEATHER Percentage of possible sunshine | Character of day (*) | date River stage - feet |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 33 | 12 | 23 | 24 | 86 | 69 | 71 | T | 0 | SW | 16 | SW | 0 | cloudy | 1 |
| | 38 | 31 | 34 | 23 | 86 | 68 | 71 | 0 | T | S | 19 | SW | 44 | pt.cldy | 2 |
| | 43 | 33 | 39 | 23 | 73 | 63 | 68 | 0 | 0 | S | 21 | SW | 16 | pt.cldy | 3 |
| | 43 | 30 | 36 | 22 | 67 | 56 | 63 | 0 | 0 | SW | 16 | SW | 64 | pt.cldy | 4 |
| | 44 | 31 | 38 | 22 | 64 | 48 | 57 | .03 | 0 | SW | 32 | SW | 57 | clear | 5 |
| | 35 | 23 | 29 | 22 | 73 | 70 | 60 | 0 | 0.4 | SW | 17 | SW | 69 | clear | 6 |
| | 38 | 26 | 32 | 22 | 68 | 78 | 76 | 0 | 0 | S | 19 | SW | 19 | cloudy | 7 |
| | 47 | 28 | 38 | 21 | 61 | 48 | 48 | 0 | 0 | SW | 24 | SW | 100 | clear | 8 |
| | 39 | 14 | 26 | 21 | 91 | 62 | 55 | 02 | 0.3 | W | 20 | N | 100 | clear | 9 |
| | 19 | 4 | 12 | 21 | 73 | 72 | 71 | T | T | SW | 15 | NW | 0 | cloudy | 10 |
| | 17 | 1 | 9 | 20 | 78 | 74 | 66 | .01 | 0.1 | W | 19 | N | 32 | pt.cldy | 11 |
| | 9 | -6 | 2 | 20 | 70 | 81 | 79 | T | T | W | 12 | N | 34 | pt.cldy | 12 |
| | 9 | -9 | 0 | 20 | 72 | 79 | 71 | 0 | 0 | W | 9 | S | 65 | clear | 13 |
| | 18 | -11 | 4 | 20 | 88 | 61 | 55 | 0 | 0 | S | 10 | S | 100 | clear | 14 |
| | 19 | -4 | 8 | 19 | 79 | 61 | 73 | 0 | 0 | S | 12 | S | 57 | pt.cldy | 15 |
| | 25 | -5 | 10 | 19 | 73 | 62 | 68 | 0 | 0 | S | 13 | SW | 100 | clear | 16 |
| | 29 | 7 | 18 | 19 | 63 | 80 | 89 | .02 | 0.3 | S | 15 | SW | 0 | cloudy | 17 |
| | 36 | 25 | 30 | 19 | 87 | 77 | 90 | T | T | S | 20 | SW | 6 | cloudy | 18 |
| | 33 | 26 | 33 | 19 | 89 | 67 | 73 | T | T | S | 21 | SW | 39 | pt.cldy | 19 |
| | 39 | 30 | 34 | 19 | 91 | 75 | 70 | T | T | S | 21 | SW | 26 | cloudy | 20 |
| | 42 | 30 | 36 | 18 | 78 | 49 | 60 | 0 | 0 | S | 18 | SW | 56 | pt.cldy | 21 |
| | 44 | 24 | 34 | 18 | 68 | 60 | 77 | .01 | 0.1 | SW | 24 | SW | 65 | pt.cldy | 22 |
| | 39 | 32 | 36 | 18 | 84 | 53 | 86 | T | T | S | 21 | SW | 12 | cloudy | 23 |
| | 36 | 27 | 32 | 18 | 87 | 83 | 84 | .01 | 0.1 | S | 22 | SW | 10 | cloudy | 24 |
| | 35 | 22 | 28 | 18 | 86 | 81 | 85 | T | T | S | 23 | S | 14 | cloudy | 25 |
| | 34 | 24 | 29 | 18 | 88 | 68 | 74 | .02 | 0.3 | S | 19 | SW | 11 | cloudy | 26 |
| | 34 | 21 | 28 | 18 | 91 | 100 | 75 | .34 | 4.6 | S | 27 | N | 0 | Cloudy | 27 |
| | 26 | 16 | 21 | 18 | 68 | 79 | 77 | T | T | S | 18 | SW | 74 | pt.cldy | 28 |
| | 28 | 15 | 22 | 18 | 81 | 70 | 78 | 0 | 0 | S | 9 | S | 6 | cloudy | 29 |
| | 35 | 25 | 30 | 18 | 83 | 91 | 86 | .01 | 0.1 | S | 12 | SW | 7 | cloudy | 30 |
| | 30 | 13 | 22 | 18 | 81 | 67 | 67 | .02 | 0.3 | SW | 20 | SW | 24 | cloudy | 31 |
| in. | 32.3 | 17.4 | 24.8 | ~~~ | 78 | 69 | 72 | [b]0.49 | [b] 6.6 | S | 32 | SW | 39 | -- | |
| mal | 20.0 | 11.6 | 19.8 | ~~~ | 78 | 68 | 73 | 0.77 | 13.3 | S | ~~~ | ~~~ | 38 | | |

• 5:30 a. m. and p. m., 105 th meridian time. T indicates a trace of precipitation. [a]Sunrise to sunset. [b]Total. [c]Monthly.

## SUMMARY

### BAROMETRIC PRESSURE

onthly mean 30.19
ghest 30.67, date 15
west 29.55, date 24

### TEMPERATURE

ghest 47, date 8
west -11, date 14
xtremes this month since 1904; highest 58, lowest -34
verage daily departure +5.0°
verage daily departure since January 1, 1940 +2.8°
tal degree days 1242

### PRECIPITATION

eatest amount in 24 hours 0.36, date 26-27
parture from normal this month -0.28
mulated departure since Jan. 1, 1940, 3.44
all, greatest 24-hour amount 4.9, date 26-27;
ow on ground on 15th 0.5, and at end of month 2.3

### WIND

Prevailing direction S, average hourly velocity 8.6
Highest wind velocity this month since 1904
41 miles from SW, on 26, in 1937

### WEATHER

Number of days clear 7, partly cloudy 10, cloudy 14, with measurable precipitation (0.01 inch, or more) 10

### MISCELLANEOUS PHENOMENA—DATES OF

Hail -
Halos, solar 15; halos, lunar -
Fog, light -; fog, dense -
Frost, light -, heavy -, killing† -
Sleet -
Thunderstorms -
Duststorms -

†Frosts not recorded in autumn after first "killing", except in Florida and along the immediate coast of the Gulf of Mexico.

### MEAN TEMPERATURE AND TOTAL PRECIPITATION THIS MONTH IN—

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 83 | | 95 | | 07 | 21.6 | 19 | 15.4 | 31 | 21.5 | 1.14 |
| | | 84 | | 96 | | 08 | 20.0 | 20 | 21.7 | 32 | 11.9 | 0.80 |
| | | 85 | | 97 | | 09 | 12.4 | 21 | 21.2 | 33 | 28.6 | 1.36 |
| | | 86 | | 98 | | 10 | 23.0 | 22 | 13.6 | 34 | 23.0 | 1.12 |
| | | 87 | | 99 | | 11 | 15.8 | 23 | 17.0 | 35 | 22.2 | 0.22 |
| | | 88 | | 00 | | 12 | 18.4 | 24 | 10.6 | 36 | 21.1 | 1.21 |
| | | 89 | | 01 | | 13 | 21.0 | 25 | 25.7 | 37 | 22.5 | 1.34 |
| | | 90 | | 02 | | 14 | 17.0 | 26 | 18.1 | 38 | 23.2 | 0.68 |
| | | 91 | | 03 | | 15 | 19.6 | 27 | 11.6 | 39 | 29.0 | 0.94 |
| | | 92 | | 04 | 22.7 | 16 | 12.2 | 28 | 19.6 | 40 | 24.8 | 0.49 |
| | | 93 | | 05 | 18.8 | 17 | 27.2 | 29 | 26.0 | 41 | | |
| | | 94 | | 06 | 28.5 | 18 | 20.6 | 30 | 18.6 | 0.27 | 42 | | |

Charles L. Howard
75-1-2-41 *Weather Bureau.*

3—10-6-37—20M) 554

Bound by Dieter